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Resilience, the Family and Social Activism

I had the opportunity to become acquainted with the term resilience and at least one social area and must disagree with the misuse of technical terms from the physical sciences into the humanities, it seems as if the concept of resilience translated to human resilience to mean the capacity of the individual to persevere in everyday life without, however, losing sight of the possibility of overcoming obstacles and imagining better days ahead.

To precisely identify the factors that contribute to the resilience of individuals and communities would be difficult, inasmuch as resilience is a subjective. However, I believe that the Wilson Center initiative, on the basis of the experience with resilience in leaders, such as social movements, can indeed illuminate truths as to the manner in which individuals and communities develop resilience strategies when facing social adversity.

Reflecting upon the occasions in my life when my resilience was tested, I observed that to show my resilience it was important to have a "history or tradition of achievement," or to have lived among achievers. In this regard I must emphasize the essential role played by my family. I believe in my capacity to overcome adverse circumstances. I paid attention to the stories my mother and father told about their own resilience, understanding that, despite the typical difficulties that black

poor. They shared a single small dwelling and had very little schooling. My father also had little education and never inherited any wealth. Both were able, however, to achieve something extraordinary for people of their time and station: they had their own home, for example, and were able to put their four children in good schools and have all of them graduate from the best institutions of higher learning in our state. From this background, I see myself as part of a team born to win. My self-esteem was instilled on

progress). I thus formed the program's first class along with a group of volunteer teachers,

officers, judging at least on the basis of those present at our meeting, not a single black executive was to be found. Again, our presentation of the program did not generate any interest in these potential contributors. The myth of racial democracy, so beneficial to the Brazilian white business class, is very difficult for their minds to dispel.

caught. Equally important is the opportunity represented by Oguntec to shape public policies so they are more inclusive of black youth in the sciences and technology.

The apparent difficulty of relying upon domestic sources of funding for affirmative action programs represents one of many obstacles in the path of militants within the black movement such as myself. The social cost is great, and the resili.3 t, 2008 as)-oT blat5.3h(